

Sandy did it . . .



The big one. As fate would have it, the record breaking 486th victory came on a Canadian owned horse, Night Train Lane. Sandy is shown holding up a special sign which illustrates his feat while Toronto trainer Mort Hardy and a groom smile in acknowledgement.

. . . and we were there

Mississauga's Sandy Hawley became the most talked about athlete in North America when he tied and then broke Bill Shoemaker's 20 year-old record for most winners in track history.

The 24-year-old jockey tied Shoemaker's record of 485 wins aboard Bold King in the third race at Laurel Md. Hawley was forced to sit out the fourth race but showed up for the fifth aboard Night Train Lane when it galloped across the finish line for win 486.

The horse, named after a famous National Football League player is owned by a Toronto realtor.

Later on the same card Hawley increased his record to 487 when Bite the Bullet finished ahead of the field.

Hawley said it was a big thrill for him to break the record but added it will be a bigger thrill to establish 500 wins during one year.

Sandy's parents, Desmond and Gloria, along with his wife Sherrie were on hand to witness him moving toward the threshold of the Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Hawley, an Erindale resident now has 495 wins for the year, just five away from his cherished goal. With 15 racing days remaining he appears certain to attain both his goals.

"It was a big thrill," he said after smashing Shoemaker's record. "I think a bigger thrill will be winning number 500."

Sunday, Hawley captured the winner-take-all North American Riding Championship at Suffolk Downs. Although many top jockeys chose not to compete in the event Hawley defeated such greats as Canadian Ron Turcotte and Braulio Baeza in the \$10,000 contest.